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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SHIN, KYUNG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/473,098

Applicant(s)

ESTRADA ET AL.

Examiner

Kyung H Shin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to application papers filed 10/27/2004
2. Claims 1 - 15 are pending. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-15 are amended. Independent claims are 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas (US Patent No. 6,233,600) in view of Maurille (US Patent No. 6,484,196).

Regarding Claim 1 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a collaboration space including a plurality of rooms in a hierarchical structure with access control list control on rooms and access control list control on forward pointers to child rooms (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51: plurality of rooms with hierarchical pointers and access mechanism), comprising:

- c) said readers field being a members object for identifying members authorized to access said room and for each member a level of authorization. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: object access control (readers field) mechanism)
- a) Salas discloses a database and an access control list for users authorized to access said room. (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 13, lines 32-34) Salas does not specifically disclose a database system for management of collaborative space. However, Maurille discloses a place comprising a plurality of rooms, each room being a database; (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)
- b) Salas discloses a readers field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34) Salas does not specifically disclose a database system for collaborative workspace. However, Maurille discloses forward and reverse pointers for linking said rooms (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38: to/from (forward/reverse) pointers), each said forward pointer to a child room including indicia identifying said child room, indicia specifying the address location of the database forming said child room; (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary

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skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16: “ ... *Message mode allows a user to interact with a private bulletin board in which his messages (i.e., any message involving the user as sender or recipient) are instantly available and displayed with full threading information ...* ”)

Regarding Claim 2 [Original], Salas discloses the collaboration space of claim 1, said levels of authorization including manager, author, and reader. (see Salas col. 13, lines 27-37; col. 14, lines 44-54: authorization levels (manager, reader, coordinator) are managed to allow create, modify, edit procedures)

Regarding Claim 3 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a collaboration space, comprising:

- b) a member directory for said place identifying users authorized to enter said place; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51: member information and access controls)
- c) each said room comprising one or more pages, and for each said room a members object for identifying members authorized to access said room and for each member a level of authorization; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 14, lines 39-44: member information and access levels)

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- a) Salas discloses a plurality of rooms with pointers in a hierarchical structure for a collaborative workspace. (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51) Salas does not specifically mention forward and backward pointers. However, Maurille discloses objects (rooms) linked by forward and backward pointers. (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38; pointers with to/from (forward/backward) pointers for parent/child navigation)
- d) Salas discloses a readers field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer and a database for said rooms including a parent room and a child room structure for collaborative workspace. (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 13, lines 32-34) Salas does not disclose forward and backward pointers. However, Maurille discloses said pointers comprising forward and backward pointers for enabling the security of each said room to be independently managed, said forward pointers including indicia identifying said child room, indicia specifying the address location of the database forming said child room. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

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Regarding Claim 4 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of claim 3, said readers field including an access authority for each reader authorized to enter said room selectively as manager, author or manager. (see Salas col. 7, lines 8-10 col. 14, lines 39-54: readers field access control information for room with different access levels)

Regarding Claim 5 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of claim 3, each said forward pointer being a secure pointer by carrying the same level of security as the child room to which it points. (see Salas col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 6, lines 52-56; col. 7, lines 8-10: room template controls room generation, parent-child relationship, child inherits characteristics of parent (including access capabilities))

Regarding Claim 6 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of claim 5, each said forward pointer carrying in said readers field the same security as that of the subroom to which it points. (see Salas col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 6, lines 52-56; col. 7, lines 8-10: room template controls room generation, parent-child relationship, child (subroom) inherits characteristics of parent (including access capabilities))

Regarding Claim 7 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of claim 6, further comprising a display for presenting to a specific user viewing a parent room a listing of its subrooms, said listing including for said specific user only those

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subrooms for which said readers field in said forward pointer includes an entry authorizing access by said specific user. (see Salas col. 12, lines 7-22: user interface for child (subroom) display)

Regarding Claim 8 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a database access control system, comprising:

- a) an access control list for specifying users who can or cannot access said database; (see Salas col. 14, lines 31-36: only specific users can access room based on access permissions)
- b) for users authorized to access said database, said access control list further specifying access levels and roles determining the specific actions said users are authorized to perform, said roles including reader, author, and manager; (see Salas col. 14, lines 37-44: access control level determines user's role)
- c) a form selectively including a form access list; (see Salas col. 13, lines 27-34: objects (forms) contain access control (readers) field)
- d) said database including one or more documents created from said form; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 13, lines 46-51: document information linked to rooms)
- f) said form access list identifying users authorized to read documents created from said form; (see Salas col. 14, lines 46-50: access permissions specify users that can read objects (documents))

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- g) each said forward pointer to a document including indicia identifying said document indicia specifying the address location of said document and a readers field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer including a document access field selectively including for each user authorized to access said document indicia specifying whether said authorized user can read or modify said document; users identified in any said form access list for said form from which said document was created being included in said readers field; (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 14, lines 44-54: object access (readers) field, capability to read and/or modify linked documents)
- h) entries in said readers field granting authorization to an individual user equal to or less than the authorization for said individual user in said access control list; (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: objects (rooms) indicate a field (readers field) with access control parameters)
- i) entries in said authors field selectively granting authorization to a user authorized as an author in said access control list to edit a document which said author creates. (see Salas col. 14, lines 46-50: access permissions specify users that can edit objects (documents))
- e) Salas discloses a hierarchical structure for rooms linked by pointers. Salas does not specifically disclose forward and backward pointers. However, Maurille discloses forward pointers linking said form to said documents and reverse

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pointers linking said documents back to said form; (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22: to/from (forward/backward) pointers)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claims 9, 13, 14 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a method for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place, comprising the steps of:

- a) maintaining for said collaboration place an access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-57: member information and access controls)
- c) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including a list of children rooms for which said readers fields on said forward pointers authorize said specific user access. (see Salas Figure 1; col. 6, lines 39-55: display interface for parent room)
- b) Salas discloses a readers field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer. Salas does not disclose forward/backward pointers or a database system for the collaborative workspace. However, Maurille discloses

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said forward pointers including indicia identifying a child room, indicia specifying the address location of the database forming said child room; (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38; pointers with to/from (forward/backward) pointers for parent/child navigation) (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claim 10 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a method for creating a child room within a collaboration place data base, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing for said data base a first access control list identifying users authorized to access said data base; (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 14, lines 31-36: access control mechanism to determine authorized user access)
- b) providing for said child room a back pointer to a parent room; (see Salas col. 6, lines 39-55: backward pointer to parent) and
- c) Salas discloses a readers field indicating authorized access to a room for providing a second access control list specific to said forward pointer and providing at said parent room for said child room a forward pointer from said

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parent room to said child room. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: object access control) Salas does not specifically disclose a database system for collaborative workspace. However, Maurille discloses said pointer including indicia identifying said child room, indicia specifying the address location of the database forming said child room. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claim 11 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of: limiting reader access in said readers access field to said child room for a specific user to no more than the access granted said specific user in said first access control list. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: readers field to indicate access controls for rooms; col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 6, lines 52-56; col. 7, lines 8-10: room template controls room generation, parent-child relationship, child inherits characteristics of parent (including access capabilities))

Regarding Claim 12 [Original], Salas discloses the method of claim 11, further comprising the step of initially including in said readers access field for a child room created from a form users identified in a form access list identifying users authorized to read rooms created from said form. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 13, lines 38-51: object access (readers) field to specify users authorized to access room)

Regarding Claim 15 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a computer program product or computer program element for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place according to the steps of:

- a) maintaining for said collaboration a first access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-57: member information and access controls)
- b) providing in a child room second access control list identifying those user authorized to enter said child room with manager, author, or user access; (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 14, lines 44-54: access levels for objects (rooms))
- d) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including on said forward pointers a list of children rooms for which said readers fields authorize said specific user access. (see Salas Figure 1; col. 6, lines 39-55: display interface for parent room)
- c) Salas disclose an access control (readers) field with pointers linking rooms and providing a third access control list on said forward pointer, said third access

control list providing access to said child room equivalent to said second access control list. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: object (room, pointer) access control mechanism) Salas does not specifically disclose forward and reverse (double-linked) pointers. However, Maurille discloses providing forward and reverse pointers linking said rooms in a double-linked list. (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38; pointers with to/from (forward/backward) pointers for parent/child navigation; col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

K H S

Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

KHS

Jan. 9, 2005



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